

2016 Connecticut River Basin Fishway Passage Counts

Report Date: 5/31/2016

This report is compiled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, using fishway count data provided by several agencies as well power companies and is dependent in many cases on the review of video counts, that have an associated time lag for updates. Please visit <http://www.fws.gov/r5csrc> for other count data summaries, and related information.

Fishway, River	Data as of:	American shad	Alewife	Blueback Herring	Atlantic Salmon	American Eel	Sea Lamprey	Striped bass	Gizzard Shad	Shortnose Sturgeon	Other
Moulson Pond, Eightmile	5/31	7	83	2,948			24				
Leesville, Salmon	5/31			some below							
StanChem, Mattabesset	5/31	36	303				12		87		
Rainbow, Farmington	5/31	150					416				
W. Springfield, Westfield	6/1	5,334			2	1	347				w. sucker (753)
Holyoke, Connecticut-MA	6/1	357,090		126	1		34,434	48	463	20*	
Easthampton, Manhan	5/18						3				w. sucker (125)
Turners Falls, Connecticut-MA	5/16	3,644					137				
Vernon, Connecticut-VT	n.a.	passing									many shad in tailrace
Bellows Falls, Connecticut-VT	n.a.										
Wilder, Connecticut-VT	n.a.										
Other											
Column Total		366,261	386	3,074	3	1	35,373	48	550	19	
Total to basin, only first barrier counts		362,617	386	3,074	3	1	35,233	48	550	19	

All returning adult sea-run salmon will be streamer tagged below its dorsal fin and released, to continue its migration in 2016. A portion of Holyoke's catch will be used briefly for studies and then released. Any angled salmon should be released without harm, preferable without removing from the water. Please contact USFWS at 413-548-9138 x8121 to report any capture/releases - thanks! *** ALL sturgeon at Holyoke are captured, processed for data/tagged, and released back downstream**

News - Real-time data on both river flow and water temperature, are at USGS web site, Thompsonville, CT (site of old Enfield Dam) - http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/uv?site_no=01184000. At Holyoke Dam, the Fish Lift Crew reported daily shad counts of: 5/31 (5,665) and 6/1 (7,405), with water temps up to 72F. The sustained high water temps (not getting back below 70F by mornings) in the main stem will speed the shad's use of energy reserves and their gonad development for batches of eggs that remain to be spawned. We believe our female shad spawn between 6-8 times to release their all their eggs, which range around 350,000 value for first year spawning females, which dominate our run as monitored at Holyoke (~95%). The review of image files from the TF and Vernon fish ladders is underway, and it was noted that the their has been a rapid rate of increase in shad counts in the most recent days reviewed for the Gatehouse ladder (reported in table), which counts fish actually passing the TF

dam, after having to use either the Cabot Station ladder (into power canal, which they must obviously also find fishway entrance at head of to get out of) OR the Spillway ladder at the base of the actual dam. We did not sample any bluebacks in MA areas sampled on Monday, with trib temps in the low 70Fs, shad were still present in the lower Westfield River, looked good, but abundance was certainly reduced. Excellent shad fishing below the Vernon Dam was reported from NHFG biologist Gabe Gries, who recently fished there. It has been a poor year for blueback herring abundance among all our sample index areas. We will determine size and age structure, as CTDEEP does for shad at Holyoke, with our lab processed fish. We sampled in Wethersfield Cove with water temps reaching 79F and captured 44 total. My office, CTDEEP and others had hoped to relocate shad from HFL in June but that window is closing fast unfortunately. That work also began Wed when my office and CTDEEP moved 149 shad above Rainbow Dam on Farmington, more hopefully moved today.